

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 MC-02 EB-11 ACDA-19 /165 R

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S/PRS-JKING (INFO)

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EB/ITP/EWT-SGOODMAN (DRAFT)

AF-EMULCAHY (DRAFT)

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P R 232041Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE; SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS EMBARGO

REFERENCES: A) STATE 90949 (NOTAL); B) ADDIS ABABA 11205 (NOTAL); C) NAIROBI 7965 (NOTAL); D) CAPE TOWN 558 (NOTAL); E) CAPE TOWN 546 (NOTAL); F) IR 6 880 0241 74 (NOTAL); G) LONDON 12168 (NOTAL); H) LONDON 12266 (NOTAL); I) LISBON 4048 (NOTAL); J) NAIROBI 8099 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. FOLLOWING IS SHORT PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH MAY BE USED AT POSTS' DISCRETION; MORE DETAILED REBUTTAL OF SZULC ARTICLE WILL BE SENT BY SEPTEL.

2. "Q. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF PRESS REPORTS IN THE PAST WEEK ALLEGING THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS RELAXED ITS ARMS EMBARGO AND IS NOW SELLING HELICOPTERS, RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT, AND DEFOLIANTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

3. "A. ALL OF THESE REPORTS ARE APPARENTLY BASED ON AN ARTICLE BY TAD SZULC WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF ESQUIRE MAGAZINE. IN THIS ARTICLE, MR. SZULC ALLEGED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO BUY BELL HELICOPTERS FOR "POLICE-MILITARY OPERATIONS" AND LEARJETS,

WHICH ACCORDING TO SZULC "CAN BE OUTFITTED FOR RECONNAISSANCE AND EVEN CERTAIN COMBAT...MISSIONS." SZULC ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE USG HAS ALLOWED THE SALE TO SOUTH AFRICA OF HERBICIDES AND DEFOLIANTS OF THE TYPE USED IN VIETNAM.

4. "OVER THE PAST THREE TO FOUR YEARS, THE USG HAS LICENSED THE SALE OF ONLY A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF BELL HELICOPTERS TO SOUTH AFRICA. ALL WERE FOR CIVILIAN COMMERCIAL USES ONLY, AND THE LICENSES INCLUDED THE CON-

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DITION THAT THERE BE NO RESALE OR TRANSFER TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE OR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS. OUR SUBSEQUENT CHECKS INDICATE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO VIOLATIONS OF THE LICENSE CONDITIONS.

5. "IN 1970, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE USG WOULD CONSIDER LICENSING THE SALE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF SMALL EXECUTIVE-TYPE JET AIRCRAFT WHICH

WERE NOT READILY ADAPTABLE FOR COMBAT OR SECURITY PURPOSES. NO SALES, HOWEVER, WERE EVER MADE.

6. "NO HERBICIDES AND DEFOLIANTS OF THE TYPE USED IN VIETNAM HAVE BEEN EXPORTED TO SOUTH AFRICA FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, A WIDE VARIETY OF AGRICULTURAL HERBICIDES WHICH ARE NOT UNDER EXPORT CONTROLS. THESE ARE SUBSTANCES WHICH ARE MANUFACTURED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, ARE AVAILABLE FROM DIVERSE SOURCES, AND ARE IN COMMON AGRICULTURAL USE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

7. "THUS, THE UNITED STATES CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN OUR ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA WITHOUT CHANGE.

DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT. INGERSOLL

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